

School Board Briefing/Proposed Action Report



Informational (no action required by Board) **Action Report** (Board will be required to take action)

DATE: October 28, 2016
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I. TITLE

2016-17 Legislative Agenda

For Introduction: November 2, 2016

For Action: November 16, 2016

II. WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY

The annual Legislative Agenda is the formal statement of the District's legislative priorities from the School Board to members of the state and federal legislatures. Because it is the District's official position, the Board must take action to approve the Agenda, per Board Policy No. 1225, Legislative Program & Advocacy.

III. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

The fiscal impact of creating the Legislative Agenda is negligible; however, the Legislative Agenda itself has potential to bring revenue to the District if the Legislature implements the priorities.

The revenue source for this motion is N/A.

Expenditure: One-time Annual Other Source

IV. POLICY IMPLICATION

Per Board Policy No. 1225, Legislative & Program Advocacy, the Board is responsible for developing annual federal and state legislative agendas for the District that are consistent with the furtherance of the District's current strategic plan.

V. RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the School Board adopt the 2016-17 Legislative Agenda, as attached to the Board action report.

VI. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This motion was discussed at the October 6, 2016 Executive Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed the motion and moved it forward to the full Board for approval.

VII. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Board traditionally adopts a legislative agenda to share the District's focus and priorities for the upcoming legislative session with the Washington State Legislature. These legislative priorities were developed with consideration to the current budget outlook and the District's strategic objectives for this year. Although the Legislative Agenda is typically focused on a limited number of priorities, the formal Agenda does not limit District weigh-in on other topics.

The 2016-17 proposed legislative agenda is focused on three main areas:

- Fully Fund *McCleary* by Providing Ample and Sustainable Funding for K-12
- Fund Capital Projects and Remove Barriers to Address Capacity Needs
- Eliminate the Opportunity Gaps

Funding is the primary focus of this Legislative Agenda because ample and appropriate funding of General Fund K-12 is the paramount duty of the State of Washington; and the District needs capital funds to meet the capacity needs brought on by enrollment growth. The purpose of this Legislative Agenda is to ensure that the Seattle delegation and the full Legislature understand the critical needs of Seattle Public Schools.

VIII. STATEMENT OF ISSUE

Approval of the Legislative Agenda will permit official communications to the delegation to make clear the District's high level priorities.

IX. ALTERNATIVES

The alternative is to not approve the Legislative Agenda. This option is not recommended because it is very important that the District take a stance on the important issues that affect Seattle Public Schools.

X. RESEARCH AND DATA SOURCES / BENCHMARKS

The legislative agenda from the prior year was reviewed in developing this agenda. District staff and the District's lobbyist worked collaboratively to ensure the highest priorities of the District were named.

XI. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Upon approval of this motion, the Legislative Agenda will be sent to the Seattle delegation in the Washington State Legislature and other key partners including the Governor's Office, Mayor's Office, and the Seattle Council Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), as well as being used during the legislative session.

XII. ATTACHMENTS

- 2016-17 Legislative Agenda (clean - for approval)

Our goal is success for ... Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day.

Seattle has three priorities for this session:

- **Fully Fund *McCleary* by Providing Ample and Sustainable Funding for K-12**
 - **Fund Capital Projects and Remove Barriers to Address Capacity Needs**
 - **Eliminate the Opportunity Gaps**
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- **Fully Fund *McCleary* by Providing Ample and Sustainable Funding for K-12:**
 - *Provide for the True Cost of Competitive Salaries to Attract and Retain Staff*
 - Create an equitable and sustainable statewide compensation system
 - *In any Levy Reform Do No Net Harm to Seattle Levies*
 - Levies currently support salaries, athletics, special education and unfunded state mandates
 - Take early action during the 2017 Legislative Session on at least a partial funding package to ensure the impacts of any reduction in levy funding is mitigated prior to SPS developing its 2017-18 school year budget (i.e. Fix the “Levy Cliff” in order to avoid early and unnecessary reductions in force (RIFs) of teachers and other staff)
 - With any levy reform, allow voters to support non-basic education activities
 - **Fund Capital Projects and Remove Barriers to Address Capacity Needs**
 - *Update the State’s Antiquated School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP)*, which provides state financial assistance for qualifying major construction projects. The current state school construction formula fails to recognize unique issues for school districts and needs to be adjusted to differentiate between instructional vs. non-instructional space, benefitting those districts that have older facilities.
 - *Provide Directed Capital Funding to Reopen and Upgrade Closed Facilities* to address areas where enrollment is growing faster than the capital levy schedule can accommodate.
 - *Allow School Districts to Have Parity with Higher Education Institutions Regarding Local Landmarking Ordinances*. With thirty-three of SPS’s 98 school buildings landmarked, the district is challenged to respond to growing enrollment and class size reduction. The restrictions have hampered the ability to efficiently use space and maximize learning environments for students.
 - **Eliminate the Opportunity Gaps**
 - *Help Eliminate the Opportunity Gaps, Including Supporting Legislation which Identifies a Source of Funding*
 - Fund measures to promote district strategies for equitable outcomes
 - *Address Fair and Equitable Assessment*
 - Adopt an alternative summative assessment framework to allow use of assessments other than Smarter Balanced Assessments
 - *Ensure Quality Teachers in Every Classroom*
 - Provide alternative routes for substitute certification
 - Amply fund professional development to implement Washington State Standards (i.e., College and Career Readiness or Common Core standards)
 - Continue to provide Teacher/Principal Evaluation Program (TPEP) professional development funding to ensure teachers and principals are calibrated around teaching and leadership standards

Summation

Fully fund *McCleary*, including ample funding for: salaries; capital cost of class size reduction; and non-detrimental levy reform. Good teaching, fair salaries, adequate classrooms and class sizes are all needed to close opportunity gaps for our neediest learners.